

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Office of Fire and Aviation  
3833 South Development Avenue  
Boise, Idaho 83705-5354

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Instruction Memorandum No. OF&A 2001-014  
Expires: 09/30/02

To: State and Center Directors  
National Human Resources Management Center, HR-  
200 & HR-240

From: Director, Office of Fire and Aviation

Subject: All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Use in Fire-related Activities

**Program Area:** Fire Management

**Purpose:** Provide policy and guidance for ATV use in fire-related activities.

**Policy Action:** The Fire Operations Field Committee recently discussed concerns relating to ATVs use in fire activities (including wildland and prescribed fire) and have agreed upon the following direction. The Bureau fire program will adhere to the Bureau safety

guidelines in the use of ATVs in accordance with BLM Manual 1112-

1. All personnel authorized to operate an ATV, must first complete training in the safe operating procedures and appropriate personal protection equipment (PPE). Specific authorization for ATV use is required (refer to your state or local policy). PPE includes helmet (must be DOT, ANSI-90, or SNELL M-95 approved), eye protection (goggles, face shield, or safety glasses), gloves, long sleeves, long pants, and over-the-ankle leather boots (at least 8" high). The standard field hard hat does not meet the PPE requirements and should not be worn while operating an ATV.

The following additional guidelines will be implemented:

- ATV training shall include safe operation with carrying loads.
- Drive at a safe speed that is appropriate for the conditions and terrain.
- Loads shall be properly mounted with weight not to effect the vehicle's center of gravity (in accordance with manufacturers specifications). Under no circumstances shall loads exceed manufacturer's recommendations.

2

- A risk assessment be completed prior to traversing steep slopes with operator's abilities and vehicle capabilities considered.
- No passengers will be carried, unless in an emergency situation.

**Contact:** If you have any questions concerning this policy, you may contact your state fire operations representative, or Rick Jensen, Fire Management Specialist, at (208)387-5710; or Michelle Ryerson-Grett, OF&A Safety Manager, at (208)387-5175.

Signed by:

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